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## BLM Completes Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Gather

The Bureau of Land Management gathered seven young male horses last week from the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range south of Billings. The horses will be available for adoption via the internet beginning in late October.

For the next month, the horses will be held at the BLM's Britton Springs facility where they will receive all their vaccinations and health checks prior to adoption. While at Britton Springs, the horses will be available for public viewing Monday through Friday from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. and weekends by appointment. Appointments can be made by calling Britton Springs at 307-548-2706. Detailed descriptions of these animals are available electronically by request.

The internet adoption will focus on Spanish-type wild horses from the Sulphur wild horse range in Utah, the Kiger range in Oregon, and the Pryor Mountain range. Horses from these ranges are popular throughout the country because of their link to the old-type Spanish horse. Some horses have primitive markings such as stripes down their backs, stripes on their withers, and zebra stripes on their legs. These unusual features are considered typical Spanish characteristics.

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The Bureau of Land Management has been holding internet adoptions for the past few years, and the effort has been well-received by adopters. Information on the internet adoption will be posted on the BLM website in early October. Bidding for the adoption will start October 29 and continue through November 20. More information on the internet adoption can be obtained at: <http://www.adoptahorse.blm.gov/>

The 2003 Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range gather started on Wednesday, September 24, and lasted two days. The gather leaves the herd with a balance of 141 adults and plus 22 surviving foals. Based on available research, this number appears sufficient to ensure genetic health of the herd, but will not cause long-term irreparable damage to the range.

In addition to the young male horses, one family group of horses came into the corrals at Britton Springs. This group consisted of several animals that had been stranded in the Bighorn Canyon in June and were rescued by BLM in July. Since these horses are still very thin, BLM will keep these animals in the corrals for about a month to help improve their condition before winter.

For more information, please contact: Linda Coates-Markle, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist, Billings Field Office, 406-896-5013.

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